Check on contract labour

2585. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government despite their promises from time to time to keep a check on hiring contract workers, are increasing their staff strength over the period;

(b) if so, the details thereof and justification therefor;

(c) whether any efficiency is increasing by increased staff strength; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government enacted the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 with a view to have a check on hiring of contract labour and prevent their exploitation. It provides for prohibition of employment of contract labour, in circumstances like the work being of perennial nature etc. Several notifications have been issued prohibiting employment of contract labour in various establishments including Government departments. So long prohibition in engaging contract labour has not been ordered, there is no bar in hiring the contract labour.

(c) and (d) The employers often resort to contract labour system for reasons like uncertainity of work, flexibility in manpower deployment, concentration on core competencies etc. which, in their view, leads to cost effectiveness, and increase in efficiency and productivity.

Setting up of Employment Commission

2586. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration with Government to set up an Employment Commission in the country to generate employment avenues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing mechanism to create employment avenues is not adequate; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the setting up of Employment Commission is going to solve unemployment problem in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) At present, there is no proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Labour & Employment to set up an Employment Commission in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Downsizing of work force

2587. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all the major trade unions and federations have demanded stoppage of downsizing of work force and lifting of ban on recruitment; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government has received a representation from the All India State Government Employees Federation demanding, *inter-alia*, stopping of downsizing, closure, privatization and corporatization of Government departments and Public Sector.

According to information received from the Ministry of Finance, keeping in view the adequacy of staffing, the need to foster convergence and avoid overlap in functions, the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) had identified around 42,000 posts for abolition. Against this, concerned Ministries/Departments have identified around 24,000 posts for abolition of which, 18682 posts have already been abolished. The ERC had also advised that Annual Direct Recruitment Plans be prepared for each Ministry/ Department. The Department of Personnel & Training have issued instructions in May 2001, that Direct Recruitment should be limited to 1/3rd of the Direct Recruitment vacancies subject to ceiling that this does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department. Around